

(From the St. John Morning Times.)

## A FEDERATIVE UNION AND THE HALIFAX AND QUEBEC RAILWAY.

Considering the importance of a Federal Union of the British Provinces, we cannot but be often disposed to give much space in our paper to its calm discussion. It is not only impolitic but impossible to shut our eyes to the apparent and absorbing fact that the day is fast approaching, when some scheme must be adopted in order to consolidate and unite these mighty provinces into one great Confederation.

We think, now that this theme is pressing itself upon the consideration of the different provinces, our Government and people will indeed lament that, in a dark and dismal hour, for the sake of an empty expediency they forsook that stupendous scheme of Intercolonial Railway—the HALIFAX AND QUEBEC LINE! While deliberately reflecting upon the probability of a Union of the provinces, we were forcibly struck with the cogency and applicability of the remark made by our learned contemporary, the Toronto "Globe," upon the now great necessity for this means of transit and travel. Our contemporary even goes so far as to argue that the construction of the Halifax and Quebec Railroad must be a precedent "fixed fact" before a Union of the Colonies can be effected. We therefore give the opinions of our contemporary, because they express our own sentiments with more perspicuity and power than we ourselves could bring to bear upon the subject:—

"Canada contains two millions of inhabitants and the Lower Provinces about seven hundred and fifty thousand. Ten years from hence the whole will embrace a population of five millions, and in twenty years ten millions.—The question of their future destiny will begin to force itself on the mind of the people, as their numbers increase. Aspirations after a national name, a national position, a national literature, will grow up in their bosoms, as soon as wealth and its consequent independence, reach every quarter of the country through which they are now making giant strides.—There will be a demand for the acquisition of new territory a longing after a wider field, for the nation as it will then exist. The natural outlet for this feeling will be in the union of the Provinces, and in the absorption of the territory which now rightfully belongs to them—we mean that of the Hudson Bay Company.—A magnificent state would grow from such a confederation under British protection, having all the activity and life of the American continent, yet retaining more of the virtues of the parent state than the neighboring union and avoiding many evils which afflict that Republic. Such a power is absolutely required on this continent. The United States have already grown so large as to be threatened with disruption.

Her southern people are as different from those of the north as contrariety can make them. There is no power on earth which can make the fiery southerner, accustomed to be the master of slaves, a good citizen of a Republic, in which all men are in theory equal and his institutions must always be a barrier to the moral development of the whole people. The mixture of a very large number of natives of the continent of Europe, and of a much greater number of Irish Catholics is not favorable to the formation of a good population. The latter are better because they are more readily changed from their old ways of thinking and acting than the former who remaining by themselves and preserving their own language retain for generations the ignorance and vice of the first emigrants. Our own population appears to be formed from better materials than that of the United States, and its development during the next twenty years will produce more remarkable fruits: If a State peculiarly derived from and owing allegiance to Great Britain, displaying more markedly the Anglo-Saxon virtues is to be reared on this continent it must be formed of all the North American colonies. It must embrace the bold coast of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, with its hundred harbors and its abounding fisheries the great forests and fertile lands of New Brunswick, the valley of the St Lawrence, with its boundless capacity for commerce the rich plains of Upper Canada and their surrounding lakes the mines of Lake Superior and still further to the west the valley of the Saskatchewan and the cultivated lands of the Red River. Our empire may

reach within the allotted time of many now living even to the waters of the Columbia and the coal mines of Vancouver's Island.

There are some difficulties, however, which lie in the way of a present union of the British North American Colonies. One obstacle presents itself which will continue to exist in all probability, for some years. It is the absolute want of commodious means of communication between Canada and New Brunswick. It is too absurd to contemplate the idea of men travelling over the present stage roads all the way from Halifax to transact government business he has been in the habit of doing at his own door. It is not alone for legislators; it will be necessary that much more frequent intercourse should take place between the inhabitants of the provinces generally in order that there may be harmony of opinion on all subjects. The Halifax railway is in fact a necessity before the union of the provinces can be seriously proposed.

There's a great belt of land lying between the settlements of Lower Canada and the inhabited parts of New Brunswick which at present forms a kind of barrier between the two provinces.—The march of improvement will no doubt clear away this obstacle soon and the provinces will be united in their cultivated territory as well as in habits and opinions. The railway between the provinces has been entirely lost sight of amidst Mr. Hincks speculations. We trust that the discussion of the union may revive the project."

Such is the opinion of our contemporary—an opinion which, drawn logically from sound premises deserves the consideration of us all; and we cannot but earnestly express the anxious hope that the Parliament of our province at its next session will do something towards effecting this desirable Union, by immediately endeavoring to "revive the project" so deeply and fully fraught with great benefits and lasting advantages to our country. Our people still are strongly predisposed in favor of the Halifax and Quebec line and therefore by calmly and decisively taking up this momentous subject our legislators will do at least one act calculated to "cover a multitude of sins," and redeem to a certain extent the bankrupt reputation of the much-vaunted "Radical Reform Assembly." We may add by way of conclusion, we trust our Brethren of the Press, who have ably and repeatedly shown and spoken of the major importance of this Railway scheme will now be more and more active and zealous on its behalf and unanimously demand with the powerful voice of a FREE PRESS an immediate return to that stupendous scheme which if adopted, must shower on the British Provinces great, transcendent and inestimable benefits: knowing also, as they must, the high honor and best advantage of New Brunswick and the circumjacent provinces have been meanly bartered for the miserable and speculative consideration of a now exploded and evaporated expediency! Let then this effort be immediately made for our Country's early redemption: for (as the Quebec "Mercury" treating on the same theme remarks:—

"We wish no separation from Britain, present or future, or alliance with any power or state but we pant for the enjoyment of that civil and religious freedom which the loyalty patriotism, courage and devotion of our forefathers achieved for England, and taught us to admire, and imitate."

"A mighty power my England,  
Is in that name of thine,  
To strike the fire from every heart,  
Along the banner'd line;  
And proudly hath it floated  
Through the battles of the sea:  
When the red cross flag o'er the smoke  
wreathes play'd,  
Like the lightning in its glee!"

The London Daily News, of September 30, contains an article, showing that the rise in the price of grain is merely speculative, and cannot therefore be long sustained. It gives an estimate of the probable deficiency of the wheat crop in Great Britain, and shows that the ordinary foreign resources will be amply sufficient to supply the demand.

Pope Pius IX. is so corpulent, it is said, that he plays billiards every day, for the purpose of reducing his size.

## ENGLISH NEWS.

(By Telegraph via St. John.)

HALIFAX TEL. OFFICE, NOV. 24th.

Five Russian Officers had arrived at Constantinople prisoners of War. Admirals Dundas and Hamelin are at Constantinople. The fleets are anchored in the Bosphorus. There is a rumour that Bucharest had been stormed!! Perhaps premature. The Son of Abbas Pacha is named Minister of War and fresh levies are raising in Egypt.

The pay of the Turkish Army is paid regularly.

VIENNA, 10.—The following are the conditions insisted on by Omer Pacha in a note forwarded to Gortschakoff, all the strong holds in the Principalities to be immediately given into the hands of the Turks, the complete evacuation of the Principalities as speedily as possible and a guarantee of all powers against similar invasion.

Supplemental dispatch, 2 p. m.—Canada detained in Mersey by fog.

PARIS, 11th.—According to the latest accounts here from Constantinople the Sultan has positively rejected all proposals which the diplomatists have submitted to him. It is freely reported that 25,000 French troops will be sent to Turkey, but orders are not given to the Minister of War until receipt of despatches from Gen. Dehulliers at Constantinople.

TURKISH WAR!—Lest the Washington had not arrived, our correspondent repeats the following important news:

The British threatened in India!—The overland mail is telegraphed with news of vital importance if true. The Czar has formed an alliance with Dost Mahomed to proclaim war against the British in India! if Britain persists in supporting Turkey.

Large Russian forces to invade Vokhara and Persia Army is collecting in the Valley of Scaltina to cooperate with Russia against Turkey. If confirmed British Parliament will assemble forthwith to devise measures to avert the dangers that threaten India, but from other sources we learn that Persia is not hostile to Turkey, so perhaps all is baseless.

COMPLETE DEFEAT OF THE RUSSIANS.—Official Telegraph Despatch.—The Consul of France at Bucharest to M. De Bourgluency, Nov. 6th. On the 2nd and 3rd November the Turks crossed the Danube from Tuitukas to Altenitsea to the number of about 18,000 men. On the 4th, Gen. Parloff attacked them with 9,000 men, and after a brisk cannonade a combat with the bayonet took place between the two armies. The Turks maintained their positions at Altenitsea and have fortified them.—The combat lasted three hours, and in all the Russians lost several Officers and 136 privates killed, and 6 superior Officers, 18 Subalterns, and 479 privates wounded—the loss on the Turkish side is not known.

4,000 Turks occupy Kalarache, 2,000 has established themselves on an Island in front of Guirgivo, and 12,000 are on lesser Alachia.—Private account of the same battle, from Vienna Another engagement 14 superior Russian Officers fell. Turks remained on the field and the Russians were retreating on Bucharest. Previous to the battle the Turks had constructed a bridge and "Tete De Pont" at Kalafat which served as basis of their operations. It appears Omar crossed at three points, with 18,000 at Ollenitsea—4,000 at Kalarache, and 2,000 at Guirgevo. Skirmishes continually occurred at out posts. Before the crossing of the Danube, a body of Cossacks came to the river bank and made signs of insult—the Egyptians rushed to boats, rowed across the river in face of the Cossacks fire, and having punished them well and chased them some distance on land, returned in triumph to camp.

There are rumours of several other movements of the Turks, at different points along the Danube and of the destruction of a Russian steamer at Heorova, but these reports, though probable, do not rest upon authority to state as facts.

FIRST BATTLE IN ASIA.—Constantinople, Oct. 31st.—Lebanon is disturbed. Selin Pacha has crossed the Russian Frontier in Asia and a battle has taken place near Baltona, 5,000

men were engaged and both armies fell back as night came on.

THE SECOND BATTLE IN ASIA AND THE RUSSIANS DEFEATED.—October 20th.—Marta Bey, officer of Selin Pacha's Staff, with a small force was suddenly attacked by a body of Russian Cavalry. He fell back fighting towards the main body of the Turkish Army and the battle speedily became general, 15,000 Russians were defeated and fled pursued by the Turks, who planted the Sultan's Standard and made their quarters at the Russian position of Orelle, eight hours distance from Ciuroch, where the battle began.

The Russian force defeated and beaten back to Bucharest was the main body of the Russians under Gen. Dannenberg, and 30 to 40,000 strong. If this be true the news is summed up thus triumphantly for the Turks. The Turks have beaten the Russians in Asia, the Turkish left wing in Europe has beaten the Russians right, composing their principle force, while the Turkish centre has whipped 9,000 Russians at Tuitukas and is now pressing in upon Bucharest—may the Crescent live.

The policy of Russia is supposed to be to draw the Turks from their present advantageous positions and with aid of reinforcements, now on the way, to bring them to a battle that shall decide the campaign.

The intention of Omar is to keep his promise, to drive the Russians from the Principalities and to make his head quarters at Bucharest.

Diplomacy lies uneasily in the rear of the fighting and even yet hopes to adjust matters, but not until after a decisive battle shall have been fought.

The condition being that to save the Czars *Amour Propre*, negotiations shall not be received after any engagement in which the Russians are worsted.

Other news from the seat of war.—Typhoid Fever raged in Russian ranks and had reduced the numbers of fighting men to 85,000, and it will be six weeks before reinforcements can arrive from Desabria.

The Czar has requested the Montenegrans to operate against the Turks.

The Porte has decided that foreign refugees shall not be employed in Europe, but may serve in Asia.

Abdi Pacha is to be removed from the Asiatic command.

Constantinople is quiet.

The news from England is not important except that the fleet at Spithead is ordered to be ready for sea on the 11th, but its destination is unknown.

Breadstuffs remained the same as at last advices.

ENGLAND—A frightful accident happened on the River Medway, near Tunbridge Wells, on the 21st ult, by which nearly forty persons perished. In consequence of the Medway having overflowed its banks, a number of hop pickers, after having finished their day's work, were being conveyed through the flood in a wagon drawn by three horses, when, on arriving at Hartlake Bridge, they became alarmed at the rush of water, and uttered loud cries. The noise they made alarmed the horses who, it appears, ran away, and came in contact with the side of the bridge, which, being in a dilapidated state, broke down, and the wagon was precipitated into the river, and all the persons in it drowned. Thirty-seven persons were missing.

PENANCE OF MAKING THE FIGURE OF THE CROSS ON THE FLOOR WITH THE TONGUE.—"Perhaps the most cruel punishment of all in ordinary use, is that of making the cross upon the ground with the tongue. I have seen this penance performed through the length and breadth of the refectory, a large hall, capable of seating 200 persons,—at tables, placed in single rows, by the side of the walls. The tongue must leave a track along the entire surface, so that the cross is clearly visible. The natural moisture of the tongue being exhausted, it is at last lacerated, and made one mass of sores. The track begins to be red with blood but the cross must be completed. The blood flows copiously, but there is no pity, no respite, and long before the task is completed, the miserable sufferer presents an appearance calculated to arouse the indignation of every spectator not altogether brutalized by fanaticism.—*Memoirs of an ex-Cyprian, By Girolamo Volpe, a converted priest.* Page 46.—It will be remembered that this was the penance enforced by Alia Sellen.